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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,198	02/25/2004	Thomas Birkhoelzer	32860-000703/US	3374
30593	7590	01/10/2008	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			HOANG, DANIEL L	
P.O. BOX 8910			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
RESTON, VA 20195			2136	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/10/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/785,198	BIRKHOELZER ET AL.
	Examiner Daniel L. Hoang	Art Unit 2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2007.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Detailed Action**

***Response to Arguments***

In view of the pre-brief conference request filed on 9/06/07, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Khidekel (US PGP No. 20010027527).

**As per claims 1, 9, 16, and 29, Khidekel teaches:**

A method for signing access operations to electronic data, comprising:

performing a security check in order to ascertain the identity of a user;

*[see paragraph 0029] "The user can be authenticated based on the user's credentials"*

assigning a user signature, identifying the user, on the basis of the performed security check without being viewable by the user;

*[see paragraph 0034] "Token"*

assigning a role signature [access code], assignable to a plurality of users, on the basis of the performed security check without being viewable by the user; and

*[see paragraph 0039] "... business rules that indicate which users are authorized to take various types of actions..."*

permitting an access operation to electronic data by specifying the user signature and the role signature.

*[see paragraph 0040] "...identification of user groups and types of access"*

**As per claims 2, 10, and 30, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the security check involves biometric data from the user being ascertained.

*[see paragraph 0029]*

**As per claims 3, 11, 17, 23, and 31, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the security check involves reading at least one of an electronic and mechanical key.

*[see paragraph 0029, "smartcard"]*

**As per claims 4, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 32, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user signature to be assigned is ascertainable on the basis of the data ascertained in the security check, by checking a user signature memory.

*[see paragraph 0026, "database 24"]*

**As per claims 5, 13, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 33, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the role signature to be assigned is ascertainable on the basis of the data ascertained in the security check, by checking a role signature memory.

*[see paragraph 0026, "database 24"]*

**As per claims 6, 14, 22, 28, 34, and 35, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the user signature memory is checked using a data telecommunication link.

*[see paragraph 0028, "communications can be sent over a secure socket layer"]*

**As per claim 7, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one user is assignable a plurality of role signatures simultaneously.

*[see paragraph 0039, wherein specified physicians may be permitted to view patient records as well as modify them while administrative staff may only view patient records]*

**As per claims 8, 15, and 36, Khidekel teaches:**

The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data are medically relevant, wherein the users are medical specialist personnel, and wherein the roles are formed in line with the workgroups within the medical specialist personnel.

*[see paragraph 0025]*

## POINTS OF CONTACT

\* Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to

Customer Service Window  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

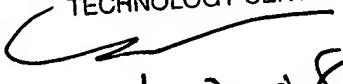
\* Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1019. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Daniel L. Hoang  
1/2/08

NASSER MOAZZAMI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

  
1/2/08